

VZCZXYZ0002
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHMU #0323/01 0771949
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 171949Z MAR 08
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2272

UNCLAS MANAGUA 000323

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR INL/RM, INL/LP

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [SNAR](#) [AFIN](#) [NU](#)
SUBJECT: Managua End Use Monitoring Report 2007

REF: (A) State 16874 (B) 07 State 163708

¶1. Embassy Managua provides the following information regarding the end use of resources acquired with INL funds. INL began operating in Nicaragua in 1997. This cable reviews resources used through the end of 2007 and details resources supplied in 2007.

¶2. The USG supports the Nicaraguan National Police (NNP), principally the Narcotics Unit and the Vetted Unit. Since 2002, INL Managua has also supported the Nicaraguan Navy in joint counter-narcotics operations with the Nicaraguan Police and U.S. law enforcement vessels.

¶3. The end of ICITAP: Until December, 2003, Post INL administered the DOJ's ICITAP programs. With ICITAP's withdrawal, Post INL arranged the g

¶4. PISCES: In 2003, INL began the deployment of a new Immigration computer system called PISCES. The contractor made the original equipment installations, but was unable to follow through with making the system operational due to the greater demand to bring the system on line in the Middle East. In January 2005, the contractor was able to send a team to Managua to conduct an inventory of all donated equipment, do the final installation, and provide training to Nicaraguan Immigration personnel. PISCES is installed, with 10 stations, at Managua's international airport. Unfortunately, due to the incomplete installation, PISCES is still not fully operational. Additionally, the current Government of Nicaragua (GON) is reluctant to take steps to move the project forward. Post will continue to press the GON to take a forward-leaning stance on this issue.

Procedures

- - - - -

¶5. DEA Special Agents and INL personnel verify the proper use and continuing maintenance of equipment acquired with INL funds while participating in operations and through regular program monitoring. The Embassy also receives written feedback from recipients regarding the use of provided equipment. Early in 2003, the NNP Drug Unit initiated its own inventory system. The inventory now tracks the location and condition of all vehicles it has received. An INL Program Assistant was hired on a part-time basis in April 2006 and then made a full-time employee in August 2006. One of his responsibilities is to monitor INL-donated equipment.

Computers/Electronic Equipment

- - - - -

¶6. INL has purchased computers, monitors, and miscellaneous hardware and software for the NNP. Prior to 2003, the NNP Narcotics Unit received nineteen computers, two scanners, nine printers, and eleven uninterrupted power supplies (UPS) for that unit's Joint Information Center (JIC). DEA also donated one computer to the Unit. These items are all in use in the JIC. The NNP Narcotics unit received ten digital cameras in 2003 and nine more in 2004. In 2003, INL provided three digital cameras for the NNP internal affairs unit. In 2005, Post INL provided 8 laptop computers and 8 portable printers to the NNP Narcotics Unit for use in the field. INL donated a laptop computer and printer for use with DARE materials and anti-gang programs in 2006.

¶7. The NNP Drug Laboratory was set up in 2002 in Managua for the purpose of evidence processing. It is one of three labs in Nicaragua whose reports the judiciary allows as evidence in trials. INL had provided the laboratory with equipment and supplies. However, upon delivery, the computers were found to be faulty and returned to the local supplier. That supplier has since gone out of business and fled to the U.S.; and the computers have disappeared. Post INL is ordering supplies and equipment for the lab and will continue to evaluate what is needed to improve the lab's ability to process evidence.

¶8. INL Managua transferred USD 392,000 to ICITAP Guatemala in 2000 to finance the formation of an NNP Anti-Corruption Unit. ICITAP used these

¶9. During 2000, INL installed ten closed circuit television cameras with recorders for use by the Narcotics Unit at the Managua International Airport. During 2002, six more cameras were installed, and five more in 2004. The NNP Drug Unit uses these cameras for surveillance of the airport area and to monitor suspicious persons. In 2005 and 2006, the system was only partly functional due to ongoing remodeling and expansion of the airport. Post INL contracted with the vendor to re-locate cables and move cameras to make the system fully operational during the remodeling. Now that airport remodeling is complete, post INL is working with the Airport Administration and the NNP to detail plans to revamp and expand the camera system.

Communications Equipment

- - - - -

¶10. Prior to 2003, INL Managua donated two repeaters, thirty-six radios, and three satellite phones to the NNP Narcotics Unit. The NNP Narcoti

Vehicles

- - - - -

¶11. The majority of vehicles donated to the NNP are attached to the NNP Drug Unit. The NNP Drug Unit inventory indicates that all donated vehi

¶12. Visits by the INL Program Assistant have shown that a number of the donated motorcycles are in need of repair. INL will further assess the problem in 2008 and decide which vehicles can be repaired. Also, as noted in the 2006 Managua End Use Monitoring Report, four vehicles originally donated to the Drug Unit are "on loan" to other police departments. Post is addressing this issue and insisting that vehicles be returned to the proper unit or risk jeopardizing future donations. We note that the Drug Unit is now making a coordinated effort to track down and secure the return of

the vehicles to the Unit; as a result of these efforts a Toyota 4 Runner (originally donated by DEA) was returned to the Drug Unit in late 2007.

¶13. During 2000, INL donated two pick-up trucks to the Civil Inspection Unit (UIC) as part of Hurricane Mitch Programs. Additionally, INL donated one Mazda pick-up and ten motorcycles to the NNP Internal Affairs Unit (UAI). During 2002, the UAI reported that one motorcycle had been stolen in Managua. INL also purchased one Toyota Yaris and one Toyota Pick-up for the Anti-Corruption Unit (UAC) and ten motorcycles. All these purchases were paid out of Hurricane Mitch funds and all equipment remains in official use with the exception of the stolen motorcycle. In 2004 INL purchased a Toyota Yaris for the NNP Women's Commissariat, for use in its prevention in trafficking in persons outreach program.

Vessels
- - - - -

¶14. In 1998, INL purchased a Boston Whaler for the NNP. It is currently in storage in the Police Headquarters in Managua. The boat has had persistent engine and electronic problems, and the cost of repairs has become prohibitive. INL has reconfirmed both the location and the status of the boat and has started negotiations with Mercury Motors either obtain a reimbursement or refurbishment package for the boat.

¶15. During 2002, INL Managua made a variety of purchases for the Nicaraguan Navy, including lifejackets, whistles, lights, flares, compasses, radar, radios, and various other tracking and communications devices. This equipment has been used in joint counter-narcotics operations with the USCG, the Nicaraguan Navy and U.S. law enforcement vessels. All but the life jackets (due to normal wear and tear) are in good condition. In 2005 Post INL donated 225 lifejackets and 2 life rafts to the Navy. In 2006, Post turned over USD 25,000 worth of Yamaha engine parts for maintaining the fast boat fleet. INL refurbished a Dabur Patrol Boat for the Nicaraguan Navy that became operational in 2003. The second Dabur was refurbished in 2005. However, there were some continuing maintenance problems which were addressed in 2006 and the vessel is now operational. Work is set to finish on the third Dabur in 2008. Also in 2003, the U.S. Coast Guard delivered one fast boat to the Nicaraguan Navy in Bluefields and two other speedboats were delivered to Managua. One, however, suffered damage to the hull in transit. In 2003 the British Government provided funds for the USG to refurbish an additional fast boat as well. The fast boats in Corinto, San Juan del Sur, Puerto Cabezas, Miskito Cay, and in Bluefields all appear to be in working order and are being used properly.

¶16. In December, 2003 the USG donated a 110 ft. utility boat, named the MV Kastor, to the Nicaraguan Navy. The Kastor was seized while smuggling

Construction
- - - - -

¶17. Vehicle Inspection Station: In 2000, INL Managua signed an LOA with the GON that committed the USG to build a Vehicle Inspection Station at Penas Blancas on the southern border with Costa Rica. The Inspection Station was inaugurated in August, 2002 and was outfitted with computers, two forklifts, an Ion Scan Machine, a pallet mover and a wide range of tools used in vehicle inspection. The Station is operational and in use. INL and DEA personnel visit Penas Blancas on a regular basis and have verified the status of the equipment. In 2006, INL funded repairs to the vehicle inspection station, including paving the vehicle inspection lane, revamping the dog kennels, repairing the water pump and pipes, and enhancing security lighting and fencing. In 2007 INL acquired a contract with a local vendor to provide maintenance services for a generator at the Penas Blancas Station.

¶18. NNP Canine (K-9) Unit: In 2001, INL Managua contracted with CSI International to do a study of the needs of the Nicaraguan Canine (K-9) Unit.

Status
- - - - -

¶19. In general, equipment delivered to our counterparts is adequately used and maintained for its intended purposes. The MIU follows a regular deployment schedule and routinely seizes drugs and disrupts illegal activity. The Vehicle Inspection Station in Penas Blancas is fully operational and has made major drug seizures. The Navy fast boats and Daburs are also making some seizures and their rate of seizures has increased dramatically compared to previous years, but they are continually hindered by a lack of fuel supply.

¶20. However, as the INL Managua Program has grown, maintenance has become an increasingly important issue. NNP Drug Police officials have asked

Problems
- - - - -

¶21. The current GON administration has shown reluctance to cooperate on moving forward with complete implementation of the PISCES program. Also, providing supplies and parts for upkeep of INL donations will be an increasing task for INL. Both the NNP and Navy have insufficient budgets to maintain all the equipment that INL is providing.

¶22. Post needs to work with the NNP and Navy to ensure maintenance of INL donated-facilities and equipment. This may include funding maintenance contracts for key programs such as the Dabur boats, the Penas Blancas vehicle inspection station and the Vetted Unit vehicles. Post continues to have concerns about maintenance at Penas Blancas and will address these in 2008. Despite recent repairs during 2006 and 2007, the facility is not being adequately maintained. One ongoing problem is the apparent decrease in the water table in the area and the corresponding need to deepen the well providing potable water to the station. INL is examining the feasibility and costs associated with deepening the well.

¶23. Several NNP vehicles have been "loaned" to other departments. Post will address this issue and remind the police that this can jeopardize future donations. We note that the Drug Unit is now making a coordinated effort to track down and secure the return of the vehicles to the Unit; as a result of these efforts a Toyota 4 Runner (originally donated by DEA) was returned to the Drug Unit in late 2007.

Impact
- - - - -

¶24. INL funded equipment and operational support directly contributed to a record year of narcotics seizures by both the NNP and the Nicaraguan Navy, with 13.2 tons of cocaine seized in CY 2007 versus 9.7 tons seized in CY 2006. In particular, the Mobile Inspection and K-9 Units conducted extremely successful interdiction operations at the Penas Blancas inspection station. We note that in

CY 2008 the Vetted Unit, which is intended to investigate money laundering and corruption in addition to narcotics trafficking, has already conducted the seizure of over a ton of cocaine. The Nicaraguan Navy also utilized INL refurbished DABUR patrol boats to achieve significant narcotics seizures on both the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts of Nicaragua.

TRIVELLI